

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

June, 2016



REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 85 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation for the Interpreter & Educator

Saturday, June 4th from 9:30 – 10:30 am

Join Katie Hone, the Monarch Gardener, for an information and resource packed hour about all things monarch butterfly-related, including biology, migration, conservation, raising them up and a little bit about plants for gardens. Handouts will be provided. This session is for adults – particularly those that have an interest in leading their own interpretive and educational programs about monarch conservation. **Preregistration is required.** Program limited to 20 participants. Please arrive 15 minutes early and meet in the refuge visitor center classroom.

Preschool Nature Explorers

Monday, June 6th & Monday, June 13th, 10:00 – 11:15 am

This is a continuation of a series of hands-on nature classes for 4 and 5 year-old children (and their caregivers). Sign up for one or both classes! The first session will be held at the refuge visitor center and the second on the refuge (at parking Lot 1). The theme for these classes will be “spring events in nature” (e.g., plants and animals adjust to the warming weather; birds are nesting). Children will be encouraged to make observations and explore nature. Much of each session will be held outdoors, so dress appropriately (including boots). The series of classes will include making and keeping a journal and doing nature-related crafts/projects to bring home. Each class session is limited to 12 children. Parents/caregivers must remain with their children during the session. **Preregistration is required.**

- June 6th: Meet at the refuge visitor center.
- June 13th: Meet on the refuge at Parking Lot #1 and wear waterproof boots.

Refuge Bicycle Tours

Saturday, June 11th @ 9:00 am

Experience the refuge from the unique perspective of your very own bicycle! Starting at the visitor contact station at Lot 1, the ranger-led group will gradually make its way south along the paved portion of the refuge’s Wildlife Drive, stopping at various points along the way to view wildlife, hear stories of

Plum Island's past, and learn about the inner workings of a national wildlife refuge. This is an "out and back" tour. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a bicycle, helmet, and water bottle.** Participants may also wish to bring insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera (if these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration is required.**

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Saturday, June 4th at 9:30 am; Sunday, June 5th at 1:00 pm; Sunday, June 12th 1:00 pm; Saturday, June 25th at 9:30 am and Sunday, June 26th at 1:00 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief "drive by" stops along the way. The tour will present an "up close and personal" look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a refuge staff member. **Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program.**

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Monday, June 13th and Monday, June 27th; both tours are conducted from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of wildlife habitats while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for conservation. Consider bringing along binoculars and a camera. The tour is limited to 7 participants; no more than 3 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. This guided program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Parker River NWR visitor center in Newburyport no later than 9:00 am OR in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH no later than 9:45 am. (Indicate location you prefer at time of registration.) Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program. **Preregistration is required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Monthly Book Club

"The Soul of an Octopus" by Sy Montgomery

Thursday, June 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Discussion groups will meet on Thursday, June 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Discussions are limited to 15 participants and will take place at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge visitor center. **Preregistration IS required for all meetings. Please call our headquarters at (978) 465-5753 to register. *Note: Those who call and leave a message after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member.**

Let's Go Outside!

Saturday, June 18th, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars! This is the second year for our new, FREE and very cool event for the whole family. Spend all or part of a day outside at the refuge while trying out a whole bunch of fun, healthy activities including archery target shooting, kayaking, surf fishing, nature photography, and bird watching. There will also be a variety of nature-based crafts and activities for younger kids. While event “activity stations” will be located both at the visitor center and on the national wildlife refuge, we recommend that you begin your event experience at the visitor center. Complete all activity stations and earn a Junior Refuge Manager badge! Activity stations will run continuously throughout the day. Free shuttle buses will provide transportation to the different venues. This event will take place rain or shine. **NO preregistration for this event.**

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Tuesday, June 21st @ Noon

There is no better way to see and experience the refuge's salt marsh than from the cockpit of your own kayak! Join a couple of refuge rangers for a 2.5 hour meander through the marsh and learn about some of its fascinating natural and cultural history. **Program participants should have kayaking experience and need to provide their own kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device (PFD).** Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snack food, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Meet the rangers at the refuge's boat ramp, opposite Lot 1, fifteen minutes prior to the program start time. Enrollment limited to 12 participants. **Preregistration is required.**

Tide Pool Discoveries

June 24th; 9:00 – 10:30 am

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium.

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center's front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge's very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique theme, is produced each month.